

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A surgical instrument for extracting a prosthetic device, comprising:

a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein the insertion configuration is adapted for displacement along a portion of a prosthetic device, and the extraction configuration is adapted for engaging and extracting the prosthetic device, the distal portion having a natural bias towards the extraction configuration the distal portion including a first extraction prong with a first distal end extending along a longitudinal axis and a second extraction prong with a second distal end extending along the longitudinal axis, the first distal end being laterally spaced apart from the second distal end by a first width transverse to the longitudinal axis, the first extraction prong extending distally from a first location and the second extraction prong extending distally from a second location, the first and second locations being laterally spaced apart from each other by a second width, and wherein the first width between the first and second distal ends of the extraction prongs is substantially the same in the insertion configuration and in the extraction configuration; and
a proximal portion connected to the distal portion.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the first and second extraction prongs are comprised of a flexible material that is capable of being transferred from the insertion configuration to the extraction configuration.

4. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the first and second extraction prongs are comprised of stainless steel.

5. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the distal portion further includes a mounting block, the first and second extraction prongs extending distally from said mounting block.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein each of the extraction prongs include a transverse flange.

8. (Original) The surgical instrument of claim 7 wherein the transverse flange comprises a hook-shaped configuration.

9. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 7 further including a third extraction prong and a forth extraction prong extending distally adjacent the first and second extraction prongs, respectively, wherein at least two transverse flanges are connected to the first and second extraction prongs to extend in a first direction, and at least two opposing transverse flanges are connected to the third and fourth extraction prongs to extend in an opposing direction generally opposite of the first direction.

10. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the first and second locations are spaced to allow the first extraction prong to extend along a first side of a core of a prosthetic device and the second extraction prong to extend along a second opposing side of the core, the first and second extraction prongs extending generally parallel to each other.

11. - 17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A method for surgical extraction, comprising:
- providing a surgical instrument having a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein the distal portion has a natural bias towards the extraction configuration, the distal portion including a first extraction prong with a first distal end and a second extraction prong with a second distal end, the first distal end being laterally spaced from the second distal end by a first width, the first extraction prong extending distally from a first location and the second extraction prong extending distally from a second location, the first and second locations being laterally spaced apart from each other by a second width;
 - positioning a first extraction prong adjacent a first lateral portion of an implant and positioning the second extraction prong adjacent an opposing second lateral portion of the implant;
 - inserting the first and second extraction prongs along ~~into~~ the implant in the insertion configuration;
 - transitioning the distal portion to the extraction configuration while substantially maintaining the first width between the first distal end of the first extraction prong and the second distal end of the second extraction prong;
 - engaging the distal portion with the ~~an~~ implant; and
 - exerting an extraction force to extract the implant.

19. (Previously presented) The method of 18 further comprising displacing the distal portion along at least a portion of the implant, wherein the insertion configuration comprises partially deforming the distal portion and wherein the distal portion is returned to the natural bias after completion of the displacement.

20. - 23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 1 wherein the extraction prongs have a natural bias that defines a maximum height of the extraction configuration.

25. - 27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument for extracting a prosthetic device, comprising:

a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein the insertion configuration is adapted for displacement along a portion of the prosthetic device, and the extraction configuration is adapted for engaging and extracting the prosthetic device, the distal portion further comprising:

a mounting block having a transverse slot;

an extraction portion including at least a first and a second flexible extraction prong, said first and second extraction prongs extending from the transverse slot from bilateral locations laterally spaced apart from each other, each of the first and second extraction prongs being adapted to be partially deformed when in an insertion configuration and having a natural bias toward the extraction configuration, and wherein the first extraction prong deflects between the extraction configuration and the insertion configuration along a first plane and the second extraction prong deflects between the extraction configuration and the insertion configuration along a second plane different than the first plane, the first and second planes being substantially parallel to each other; and

a proximal portion including a substantially rigid shaft connected to the mounting block.

29. (Currently Amended) A surgical instrument for extracting a prosthetic device, comprising:

a distal portion transitionable from an insertion configuration to an extraction configuration, wherein the insertion configuration is adapted for displacement along a portion of

the prosthetic device, and the extraction configuration is adapted for engaging and extracting the prosthetic device, the distal portion further comprising:

a mounting block having a transverse slot;

an extraction portion including at least a first and a second flexible extraction prong, said first and second extraction prongs extending from the transverse slot from bilateral locations laterally spaced apart from each other, each of the first and second extraction prongs being adapted to be partially deformed when in an insertion configuration and having a natural bias toward the extraction configuration, and wherein the first extraction prong deflects between the extraction configuration and the insertion configuration along a first plane and the second extraction prong deflects between the extraction configuration and the insertion configuration along a second plane, the first and second planes being substantially parallel to each other; and

a proximal portion including a substantially rigid shaft connected to the mounting block

~~The surgical instrument of claim 28~~, wherein the first and second extraction prongs are integral with a mounting plate which is insertable into the transverse slot.

30. (Currently Amended) The surgical instrument of claim 29 28, wherein the extraction portion further includes a third and a fourth flexible extraction prong, the third and fourth extraction prongs extending from the transverse slot adjacent the bilateral locations of the first and second flexible extraction prongs, respectively, the first and second extraction prongs forming an upper implant engagement portion and the third and fourth extraction prongs forming a lower implant engagement portion.

31. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 30, wherein the first and second extraction prongs are integral with a first mounting plate and the third and fourth extraction prongs are integral with a second mounting plate, the first and second mounting plates being insertable into the transverse slot.

32. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 31, wherein an insertion width of the upper implant engaging portion is less than an insertion width of the lower implant engaging portion, wherein the upper implant engaging portion nest inside the lower implant engaging portion.

33. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 28, wherein each of the first and second extraction prongs includes a transverse flange, each of the transverse flanges pointing generally in the same direction.

34. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 30, wherein each extraction prong includes a transverse flange, the transverse flanges of the upper implant engaging portion pointing generally in a first direction towards an upper portion of the prosthetic device, and the transverse flanges of the lower implant engaging portion pointing generally in a second direction towards a lower portion of the prosthetic device.

35. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 34, wherein the transverse flanges define a reduced transverse profile for the insertion configuration.

36. (Previously presented) The surgical instrument of claim 30, wherein the upper and lower implant engagement portions overlap each other in the extraction configuration.